

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# The Unhappy Christian

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray:** Josiah, Wayne and Cathy, Helen Spicer, Peggy, All health care providers and especially for Scott and his family.

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers. Steve and Abby are in Juneau.

**Ladies Class:** There will be a Ladies Class January 30, 2021 beginning at 11:00 AM at the church's building. All the ladies are encouraged to attend. Contact Terry Campbell for additional information.

**Friday Class:** There will be a Friday evening class this coming Friday January 22, 2021 beginning 6:00 PM at the building.

**Email and Text:** Let Bill know if you are not receiving email and text from me about Bible classes. Respond to: billbeebecoc@gmail.com.

**Radio Programs:** Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program on KMBQ 99.7 Sunday mornings beginning at 9:00 AM.

**Today's Scripture:** "Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep." **Luke 6:25 (KJV)**

**Wisdom for Today:** "A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;" **Ecclesiastes 3:4 (KJV)**

**Tonight's Lesson:** "Falling Away" by Eddie Maxwell

Attendance Last Sunday 67/43: Our Record: 107

For more information, visit our website at [www.churchofchristwasilla.com](http://www.churchofchristwasilla.com)

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## God's Plan of Salvation

Hear.....	Romans 10:17
Believe.....	Mark 16:16, Hebrews 11:1-6
Repent.....	Acts 2:38, II Corinthians 7:10
Confess.....	Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 10:32-33
Be Baptized .....	Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16
Arise & Walk in Newness of Life .....	Romans 6:4

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..."

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### MEETING TIMES

#### Sunday:

Bible Classes:	10AM
AM Worship:	11AM
PM Worship:	5PM

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study:	7PM
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### OFFICE HOURS

Tue./Thur. Call or Ck Web

### COME JOIN US!

The church of Christ at Wasilla meets at:

2061 N. Merciful Circle  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
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Visit our website at:

[www.churchofchristwasilla.com](http://www.churchofchristwasilla.com)

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

## The Unhappy Christian

When I first started preaching, I was surprised when looking out on the audience at how many Christians seemed to look so unhappy. In fact after a few years I constructed a sermon titled "Mule Faced Christians" that dealt with this issue. When you look at a mule in the face, you will notice that it seems to have a long and sad looking face compared to horses. The Christians I often saw in the audience appeared to have long sad faces that gave the idea that they would rather be anywhere but in the worship service. Thinking back, their appearance may have been due mostly to the fact that I was preaching and not to the idea that I had that they just didn't want to be there. But even today, we see people in the church that seem to be really unhappy.

The Bible mentions things related to being unhappy a few times. The word mourn occurs 45 times in 44 verses in the Bible, while the word sad is used only 11 times in 10 verses. But we can recall a few characters that are described in the Bible in a way that would lead us to the conclusion that they were unhappy. We can certainly remember Jonah. Jonah was instructed by God to go and preach in Nineveh, but he was unwilling to do that. In his effort to avoid doing what God wanted, Jonah attempted to run away. We all know the end result of his attempt to avoid what God wanted him to do. He was thrown overboard the ship he was attempting to escape on and was swallowed by a large fish. After three days and nights in the belly of the fish, Jonah was allowed to escape and went into Nineveh preaching the message that God had for them. Nineveh repented in sackcloth and ashes, including their King. And when God refused to destroy them we are told in **Jonah 4:1 (KJV)** "*But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.*" Jonah became angry, and we can conclude that he was very unhappy, that God chose to not destroy Nineveh after they repented. And in his anger and unhappiness, he plead with God to take his life (Jonah 4:3).

Some others in the Bible that we can conclude were unhappy include King Saul. He was said to have been very displeased when heard the women of Israel singing "*And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.*" **1 Samuel 18:7 (KJV)** And we can not forget Judas, the betrayer of Jesus. We see him unhappy at least twice in the New Testament. First he was unhappy when Mary applied expensive ointment to the feet of Jesus. **John 12:3-6 (KJV)** "*Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.*" Next we can conclude that he was unhappy with himself for betraying Jesus; "*Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and*

## Sermon: Tom Betti Article: Bill Beebe

*brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.*" **Matthew 27:3-5 (KJV)**

In these three cases we see the range of human unhappiness. First Jonah was unhappy with God for His sovereign decision not to destroy Nineveh after they repented. Next, we see King Saul expressing his unhappiness in his multiple attempts to kill David. And finally Judas being unhappy with himself for betraying Jesus. Jonah was unhappy with God, King Saul was unhappy with another person (David), and Judas was unhappy with himself. These are basically the same things we become unhappy with today, so let's ask some questions. Are you unhappy with God? Do you see others that are not doing what you are doing in the church but seem to have a golden touch so that all their business adventures are profitable and they grow more wealthy each day. While you, on the other hand, serve the church and worship God almost daily and you are just getting by. And your unhappiness grows day by day until you almost hate having to come to the meeting of the church. Are you unhappy with others around you? Do you feel slighted when some of the men get together to go fishing or hunting and you are not invited? Or do you become jealous and unhappy when you see a brother or sister succeeding in some task that you wouldn't attempt or that you were not asked to do? And finally are you unhappy with yourself because you can't seem to be as successful as the rest of the men or women in the congregation. Do you feed unhappy with your self when you see others who made different decisions throughout their lives succeed where you couldn't or wouldn't even try for fear of failure?

On the other hand, the Bible is full of the idea that we should rejoice. The word, rejoice appears in 192 times in 183 verses. While joy appears 165 times in 155 verses and glad appears 89 times in 89 verses. Clearly we Christians should be a people that rejoices, a people who have joy in our lives and are a glad people. Paul gave us the best reason to be joyous by telling us what should make us very sad. In **1 Corinthians 15:17-19 (KJV)** Paul tells us "*And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*" If Jesus was not resurrected from that grave, we have a reason to be miserable and unhappy. But Jesus was raised so we should be the most joyous people of all the billions of people in the world.

So, this morning ask yourself; are you unhappy or are you joyous? If you are unhappy, let us help by taking your burden to God in prayer. If you are happy, show it and let the world know that you are a happy Christian.